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FAMILY LIVING

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FARMERS HOME ADMINISTRATION
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INFORMATION ON

"COST OF OWNING AND OPERATING A HOME FREEZER"

Agricultural Outlook Conference, Washington, D. C.
October 2-3, 1952

Home freezers are not built to freeze large quantities of food at one time. For best results, large cuts of meat and other food products should be sharp frozen at a plant equipped for this type service, then stored in the home freezer.

In estimating costs, the following assumptions were made:

- a. Probable life of a home freezer bought in 1952 appears to be 12 years; if bought prior to that time, 10 years.
- b. Trade-in value of a freezer at the end of 12 years will probably be negligible.
- c. Repairs over a 12-year period were estimated at 2% of the original cost per year.
- d. Failure to operate is slight. Many failures to operate are caused by plugs being accidentally disconnected, or current being cut off at the switch when a family leaves for a vacation.

It takes approximately 0.1 kilowatt hours per pound to freeze food and to reduce it to storage temperature, viz. 0° F. For example, in freezing 400 pounds of food during the year a box would use 40 kilowatt hours. This is a relatively low amount of energy.

For a 12-cubic-foot freezer, approximately .30 kilowatt hours per cubic foot per day are needed to maintain a box at zero temperature throughout the storage space. This means $365 \times 12 \times .30$, or 1,314 kilowatt-hours per year. This tends to be true regardless of how much or how little food is in the freezer.

The cost of upright models generally is higher than for chest models of the same capacity, but the cost of operation of the two is about the same.

Processing costs for meat are approximately 5¢ per pound on weight of the dressed animal. This includes cutting up, packaging, and freezing.

Packaging costs for vegetables and fruits most frequently run about 2¢ per pound.

(over)

Assuming the original cost of a 12 cubic-foot freezer to be \$420, that it was purchased for cash, and that 1,300 kilowatt-hours were used for storage and 40 kilowatt-hours for freezing foods, with the kilowatt-hour rate at 2¢ per hour, the cost of owning and operating a freezer would be as follows:

Depreciation	\$35.00
Cost of operation	27.00
Repairs	8.40
TOTAL	<u>\$70.40</u>

To this figure some families who want to consider the freezer as an investment will want to add interest foregone. In some states families will want to add personal property tax. It would be conservative to state that it costs about \$80.00 a year to own and operate a 12 cubic-foot home freezer.

The convenience of home freezers frequently outweighs the cost of owning and operating.